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"SHERLOCK HOLMES"

by Robert H. Smeltzer

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is "in again," so to speak; fact is he will live forever in his books and the reviews of same; from time to time; the study of the man, as all great men are studied, dissected, and each reviewer has a different way of putting down his impressions! also Doyle's novels have been, for the most "detective" tales. Conan Doyle's reputation stands upon his creation of a character known thruout the reading world—"SHERLOCK HOLMES."

As we all know, Sir Conan was an Englishman. At times his stories appeared in paper covers; not in any way disparaging the greatness of our subject, for Charles Dickens, another famous English writer had his works printed both in paper covers and bound volumes; Sir Conan's stories, dressed up in the lurid covers of the golden dime novel era; even published serially from week to week, would be some to prize; giving credit for worthy effort to the cover artists.

To deviate at this point; that is one thing which has always hurt me more than a little; that we dime novel devotees do not, and at this late date, cannot know who the artists were; also be able to know them, as we do most of the outstanding writers of the D. N.

There is always a thrill as one settles down on an evening; especially if the night is stormy and the indoors bright and cozy. What a host of detective heroes parade their adventures on the pages of the dime novels which we prize and many times reread; Am-

erican heroes, for instance, Nick Carter, Old Cap Collier, Old King Brady, Old Broadbrim, Young Broadbrim, and the Old Cap Collier Library, with the various "gum shoe sleuths"; Larry Murtagh, Gideon Gault; Clear Grit, the Invincible, Old Search, Slocum the Ferret, Old Ironnerves, Calvert Cole, Kinduke, the Daring, Young Dillon, Rody Rogan, V Spot, Dave Dotson, and others.

What inspired me to jot down my thoughts and feelings on the detective story in general is that I have before me "torn out" pages from a magazine, which I am certain, but not sure, are from a recent copy of "LIFE." Profusely illustrated with cuts, which are a treat to gaze upon; for instance, a copy of "Beeton's Christmas Annual," (a paper-cover), the story being "A Study in Scarlet"; first picture of Holmes in a "flat topped" derby, with magnifying glass and sideburns; Sherlock Holmes, with his fore an aft cap and his famous pipe; Holmes as a college student; Watson (Holmes' devoted servant) and Holmes spot their man in a "hansom on Regent Street in the "Hounds of the Baskervilles."

"The Most Dangerous Man in London" was Holmes' description of Professor James Moriarty; death struggle of Holmes and Moriarty depicted on a lonely Alpine cliff.

On the stage; as I well remember; William Gillette fitted perfectly into the role of Sherlock Holmes. He has Moriarty at bay, with a pointed pistol; and his terms were short and sweet; I can spare five minutes if you have anything to say.

Sherlock Holmes' Cultists have fun

proving their hero actually did exist, as they gather at dinners in "Merry Old England," and some insist that Dr. Watson was the real author of the Sherlock Holmes tales, and that Sir Conan Doyle was his "literary agent" which to my mind is going a little too far, as you will admit.

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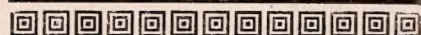
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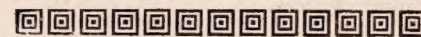
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